

STREET TREES' VALUE

Index of the Character of Any Community.

HINTS ON PLANTING THEM.

Give Each Tree Enough Room So That When Fully Grown Its Individual Beauty Will Not Be Lost. Care of Young Stock.

Street trees and their condition are largely an index, for they have much to do with the character and growth of a city or town. While they add much to the comfort and pleasure of the inhabitants, the evident determination to be comfortable bespeaks the character of the people. Not only do street trees concern the present, but assures one of still better results in the future. If one but takes the trouble to look the matter up it will be found that a majority of the larger cities east of the Mississippi started as well planted, well cared for villages. Often this marvelous growth may be traced back to where some enthusiastic individual or small band of workers determined that their village should be made beautiful and attractive to home seekers.

Many can, if they would, start this work with a swing and gait that could not fail to succeed, thereby adding to the property values of both self and neighbors. "Why stand ye idly by?"

Do not overplant streets. Allow each tree sufficient room so that when fully grown its individual beauty will not be lost. Trees so planted always make the more satisfactory growth. Their root systems start forth equally distributed in all directions. If placed too close to each other when of large size the space between trees is soon exhausted of plant food and completely filled with roots; then the feeders make a frantic rush at right angles to the row, seeking plant food wherever most easily obtained. In country districts this often results in these starving trees sending their roots into orchards comparatively near the surface and nearly destroying the nearest row of fruit trees.

A most thorough preparation of a deep soil bed for the young trees will start a rooting system down deep in the natural reservoir of plant food, and the feeders will not then push up near the surface to forage because of short rations at home. Roots reaching into and interfering with orchard or garden may in the case of old trees be cut by digging a trench parallel with the row and cutting them off. If the tops are also properly pruned, the tree will not need such an extensive root system to support it. If the street tree is given an occasional feed and cultivation, as is always the case with orchard trees, it might be induced to board at home for all time. The need of ample room. If we are to secure the best tree development, it is strikingly shown in the case of the common blue gum, a forest tree. When grown in commercial plantations or shelter belts it sends up a tall, straight shaft with scarcely a branch of any note. When standing alone it develops a handsome, umbrageous form and often makes an ideal shade tree.

One of the most serious drawbacks to street tree planting is the inability to obtain capable men to do the work. In spite of the fact that men on every hand may be found who claim to be trained gardeners, very few are at all competent to plant trees or care for them after planting. Even the best gardeners are seldom trained in those lines which have to deal with street trees, and a well trained orchardist is to be preferred for the planting, while special training is required for intelligent pruning. If more good men were available, our larger cities and towns might be encouraged to appoint tree wardens or city foresters. As it is, the authorities feel somewhat helpless, and the matter drifts along, the property owner planting and the wind or wire stringer pruning until no respectable trees are left. Some day the city or town awakes to find it has no street trees worthy the name, and a movement is made to begin all over again, reclaiming such trees as are still of value, rooting out and replacing old marred stumps, and only by a general upheaval is it possible to place the municipality on the road toward the city beautiful goal.

Young street trees growing vigorously need attention in a variety of ways. Abnormal and useless growths must be cut off, and so must the top at a proper height, the latter to induce branching into a low heading tree rather than continuing upward into a spindly and insufficient exclamation point on the landscape view. All young trees, as a rule, need staking and tying, and no halfway measures should be adopted in this work. Have the stakes strong enough to resist the heaviest windstorm and the cord equally effective. The latter should be large and soft that it may not cut into the tender bark as well as making a closely knit knot that will not come untied or slip. Frequent and copious frigitations must be given during the first summer following planting, more especially if unusually large holes have not been dug, so as to induce a free, far-reaching root system. It is well to remember the old admonition, "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined." A few minutes' pruning when young will remove the necessity of unsightly "hacking" in the future.

Keep the Lawn Clipped. Nothing adds a touch of refinement to the home place so well as a neatly clipped lawn. Of course it takes work, but what doesn't that brings any satisfaction?

QUEER DEFINITIONS.

An Early Eighteenth Century Interpreter of Hard Words.

Bailey's Universal Etymological Dictionary, with the subtitle, "An Interpreter of Hard Words," was first published in London in 1721. Most of its definitions are eccentric, and some of them incredibly so. Here are specimens plucked at random:

Man—A creature endowed with reason.

Thunder—A noise known by persons not deaf.

Lightning—A meteor.

A Rainbow—A meteor of divers colors.

Weapon Salve—A sort of ointment which is said to cure a wound by being applied to the sword or other weapon that made the wound.

Balloon—A football; also a great ball with which noblemen and princes use to play.

Cow—A beast well known.

Milk—A food well known.

Peacock—A fine bird.

Elephant—The biggest, strongest and most intelligent of all four footed beasts.

Medlar—A fruit which is grateful to the stomach, but is not ripe till it be rotten.

Snow—A meteor well known in northerly and southerly climates, especially beyond the tropics.

Mouth—Part of the body of a living creature.

Eye—An instrument of death.

HELPED THE BOYS.

A Letter That Aroused King Christian of Denmark.

King Christian of Denmark once found in his morning mail a letter which moved him more than did most matters of state. The letter was in a boyish scrawl and read as follows:

Dear King—We are four boys at Flakkebjerg school, and the master whips us daily with a piece of steel rope he found in the harbor. If he doesn't stop there will be a fire.

The name of the teacher being given, the king ordered him to report at once to the minister of justice, while he took the next train for Flakkebjerg and examined the class in the teacher's absence. The children, unawed by the presence of the cruel teacher, told their grievance to the kindly old king, who promised immediate relief, closed the school for the day and ordered that the boys be treated to chocolate and cakes at his expense "to remember him by."

But he did more than that. On returning to Copenhagen he dismissed the cruel teacher without pension, at the same time giving a general warning to all teachers to be chary of corporal punishment. "If boys cannot be trained without cruel beatings," this wise king said, "then there must be something the matter with those who train them. The coming generation must not be made ruffians by ruffian teachers."

Isle of Wight.

The Isle of Wight inhabitants are not alone in speaking of "going to England" when they leave their own fragment of the kingdom. A patriotic Cornishman also "goes to England" when he crosses the Tamar. Similarly inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula talk of "going to Europe" when they leave their own corner of the continent—in curious contrast with the people of our own island. We regard ourselves as both of and in "Europe," and accordingly it is only "the continent" that we visit. The record in the splendid isolation line is probably held by that minister of the Cumbræ, in the Clyde, who prayed for a blessing upon "the inhabitants of Great and Little Cumbræ and the adjacent islands of Great Britain and Ireland."—London Graphic.

The Tower of Famine.

The Torre della Fame, or Tower of Famine, was noted for its grewsome history. It once stood in Pisa, Italy, but there are now no traces of it. Count Ugolino della Gherardesca, whom Dante immortalized, was the head of the Guelphs, and because of his tyranny and accredited attempts to place his country in bondage he was antagonized and finally conquered by the chief of the Ghibellines, who imprisoned him, with his two sons and two grandsons, in this tower, the slow method of starvation being employed as the manner of their death. The door of the tower was locked and the keys thrown into the Arno.

The Holy City.

Medina, the holy city, triumphed long ago over all the rivals in various parts of the world which bore the same name, which means simply "city." Notable among them were the old capital of Malta and Medina Sidonia in Spain. The Arabian city was originally known as Yathrib, but owes its later name, El-Medina (the city) or Medinat Rasul Allah (the city of the apostle of God), to the Koran. To a good Mohammedan there is only one city "with a big C."

Inside and Outside.

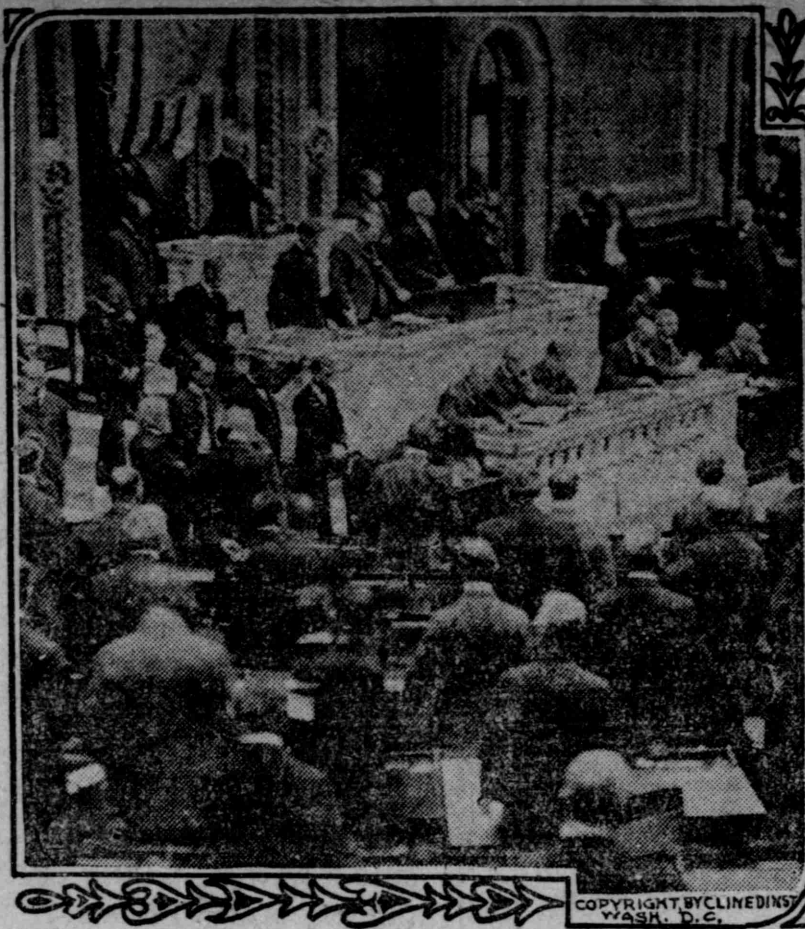
The following report was sent by a subordinate inspector to his chief in the telephone service. It concerned a faulty house connection:

"Found wire with no outside outside. Put inside wire outside and outside inside. Need more outside for inside."

Learning.

Wear your learning like a watch, in a private pocket, and do not pull it out and display it merely to show that you have one. If you are asked what o'clock it is, tell it, but do not proclaim it hourly or unasked, like the watchman.

The wrongdoer is never without a pretext.—Italian Proverb.



SCENE DURING SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This is one of the few photographs ever taken of the house of representatives in session. It shows Speaker Cannon in the act of calling the house to order and was taken a few days after the opening of the second session of the Sixtieth congress. The picture was taken from the gallery overlooking the Republican side of the house.

BUYING CHAIRS BY SIGHT.

Few Folks Ever Think to Try Them by Sitting In Them.

"I went with some folks the other day," the man said, "to buy a couple of chairs. We went to a furniture store and looked over what they had to offer.

"There were just ordinary chairs for a bedroom, so that it wasn't a very momentous purchase. The folks I was with looked at the cloth on the chairs and asked questions about the wood and how the chairs would wear. Then they bought the chairs and ordered them sent home.

"What struck me as peculiar about the transaction was that never once did either of the two persons with whom I was sitting down in the chairs to see whether or not they were comfortable. I dropped into a furniture store not long afterward and asked a salesman about it, and I wasn't surprised to learn that very few persons buying chairs ever seem to think about testing them by sitting in them.

"Except in the case of rockers, that is. Few persons can resist the temptation to take a few preliminary rocks in a prospective purchase."—New York Sun.

Learned by Experience.

"I always make it a point," said the man with a wart on his nose, a couple of cross eyes and a hair lip, but otherwise possessing a perfectly good face, "to say polite and complimentary things to the ladies. It does me no harm, and I notice it always gives them a lot of pleasure. My motto is to scatter sunshine provided it costs no money as I journey along."

"I used to do that, too," said the man whose set of neglected whiskers were calling plaintively for the lawn mower, "but I have been broken of the habit. No more sunshine radiating from these quarters."

"And what cured you?" asked the other.

"A couple of breach of promise suits."

Yes, It Was True.

"Is it true that you threw something at Mike that caused the swelling over his eye?" the squire inquired of a little woman.

"Yes, sor, I did," said the woman, catching her breath, "but I never mint to hurt him, an' well he knows it. We'd just come home from me cousin's weddin', an' I was feelin' kinder soft to Mike, an' I up an' axed him if he loved me as much as he did the day we was married, an'—an', yer anner, he was so slow answerin' me that I up wid the mop an' flung it at him! If we poor women don't have love our hearts jist breaks inside us!"

Origin of Geography.

The Phenicians were the first people to communicate to other nations a knowledge of distant lands. It is now known that before the time of Homer that enterprising people had passed beyond the limit of the Mediterranean into the great western ocean, and it was by their sailors that the first rough charts of the world as then known were made. But geography as a science originated among the Greeks. Its real father being Herodotus of Halicarnassus, about B. C. 484.

No Encouragement.

Mrs. Short—Oh, dear, I do wish we were rich! Just think of the good we could do if we only had lots of money! Mr. Short—True, my dear, but we can do a great deal of good in a quiet way now. Mrs. Short—Yes, of course, but no one will ever hear of it.

His Excuse.

Diggs—You believe that whisky is good for a cold, don't you? Swiggs—Yes, but how did you know? Diggs—Oh, I've noticed that you nearly always have a cold.—Chicago News.

Repetition.

Husband (entering house with bag of chestnuts)—I brought home some more chestnuts, dear. Wife (wearily, without glancing up)—I'm listening. Judge.

THE BRAINY SNOB.

Women in the Front Rank in This Character.

"A good lady who goes to the art class," says Samuel McChord Crothers in the Atlantic Monthly, "is able to talk of Botticelli. But she has no right to look down upon her husband as an inferior creature because he supposes that Botticelli is one of a certain kind of pickles. He may have some things which she has not, and they may be fully as important."

True enough, they may be fully as important, but it would be hard to get our lady who goes to the art class to realize this fact. This is because of no conscious perversity on her part, but rather because her judgments are irretrievably based on a certain little round of standards of her own making.

When she meets a person for the first time she performs much the same operation that a merchant does when he checks off a bill of goods. She looks him over and decides whether he tallies up with the items on the bill of her perfectly satisfactory and sufficiently cultured person, and if he does all well and good. If not, if he pronounces bas-relief with an "s" or thinks that Puccini is the name of a new cheese-scratch goes the pencil, and the newcomer is marked "hopeless." Hopeless he may be as far as grand opera and mural decorations are concerned. These seem important to the good lady of the art class, but they are not the only important things in the world, and this is just where her judgment is a bit warped. By dint of constant attendance upon the art class and much cramming up on Italian opera and French drama she has become fairly well informed upon these matters, but that does not warrant her for indulging in a sort of intellectual snobbishness which is as detestable as the stuckupishness of the little girl whose father has just mortgaged his house to buy an automobile.

In so doing she merely betrays her ignorance of the value and importance of the other fellow's knowledge, and you may rest assured that in some particular branch of knowledge your ignorant doll is as proficient as she is in the things she by her own verdict has pronounced all important.

Waterproofing Matches.

Perhaps some of your readers would be interested to know that I have found a simple, inexpensive way to waterproof matches. Into some melted paraffin, care being taken that it was as cool as possible, I dipped a few ordinary parlor matches. After with drawing them and allowing them to cool it was found that they scratched almost as easily as before being coated with the wax. Several were held under water for six or seven hours, and all of them lighted as easily as before immersion. When the match is scratched the paraffin is first rubbed off and the match lights in the usual way. Matches treated as above would be very useful on camping or canoeing trips, as they do not absorb moisture. Since more rubbing is required to light them than the ordinary match, it would be practically impossible to set them on fire by accidental dropping.—Scientific American.

Tom, Dick and Harry.

"Some folks have a hard time to find odd enough names for their children," said a man in an uptown club the other evening. "They will search through all kinds of books on the subject, consult all their friends and relatives and finally burden the youngster with something never heard of before."

"I know one man, however—he is a banker and lives on West End avenue—who, while he did not spend much time in search of names, adopted a scheme which is very novel. It took five years to carry out the scheme, now complete. The first boy he named Tom, the second Dick and the third Harry. This particular trio is about as much talked about in the neighborhood as the noted Tom, Dick and Harry of whom nearly every one has heard."—New York Times.

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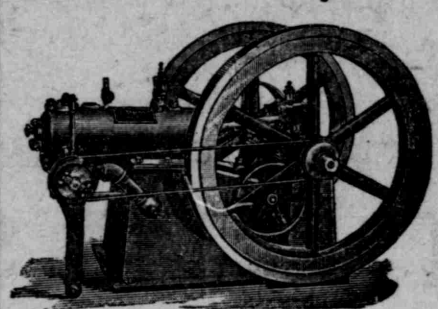
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Clock Made of Straw.

A shoemaker named Wegner, living in Strasburg, has a clock of the grandfather shape, nearly six feet high, made entirely of straw. The wheels, pointers, case and every detail are exclusively of straw. Wegner has taken 15 years to construct this strange piece of mechanism. It keeps perfect time.

Daily Thought.

Be a good man. That is the sum and substance of all; be a good man.—Sir Walter Scott.

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Made His Diagnosis. "What diagnosis did the doctor make of your wife's illness?" "Said she is suffering from overwork." "Is that so?" "Yes, he looked at her tongue and reached his decision immediately."

Forced to Consume Bakers' Bread. In Dundee, as in other manufacturing towns in Scotland, bread is seldom made in the homes of wage-earners. They economize rigorously in other ways, but pay the bakers a profit on their big four-pound loaves. There are no facilities in many of the one-room and two-room houses of the poorer workmen to make bread.